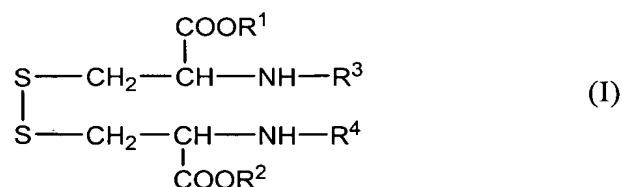


The status of each claim in this application is provided below.

Claims 1-47: Canceled.

48. (New) A method of inducing a Th2 response in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the cystine derivative represented by formula (I):

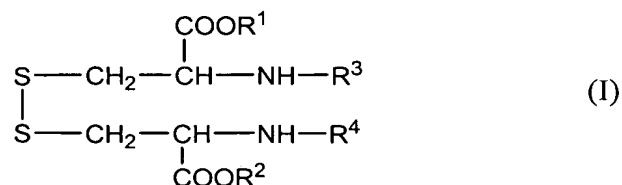


wherein

R^1 and R^2 , independently from each other, represent an alkyl group or a substituted alkyl group, and

R^3 and R^4 , independently from each other, represent an acyl group or a peptidyl group.

49. (New) A method of suppressing cellular immune responses in a subject by skewing the Th1/Th2 balance to Th2, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the cystine derivative represented by formula (I):



wherein

R^1 and R^2 , independently from each other, represent an alkyl group or a substituted alkyl group, and

R^3 and R^4 , independently from each other, represent an acyl group or a peptidyl group.

50. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein administration of the cystine derivative (a) reduces the content of reductive glutathione in macrophages in the subject, (b) increases the capability of the macrophages to produce IL-6, and (b) decreases the capability of the macrophages to produce IL-12 and NO.

51. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein administration of the cystine derivative reduces the content of reductive glutathione in the macrophages in the subject.

52. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the intracellular content of reductive glutathione is reduced to at most 0.1 nmoles of glutathione per 5×10^5 macrophage cells.

53. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the intracellular content of reductive glutathione is reduced to at most 0.1 nmoles of glutathione per 5×10^5 macrophage cells.

54. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the subject is suffering from gastrointestinal inflammatory disease.

55. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the subject is suffering from chronic rheumatoid arthritis.

56. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the subject is suffering from hepatitis.
57. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the subject is suffering from hepatic cirrhosis.
58. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein the subject is suffering from gastrointestinal inflammatory disease.
59. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein the subject is suffering from chronic rheumatoid arthritis.
60. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein the subject is suffering from hepatitis.
61. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein the subject is suffering from hepatic cirrhosis.
62. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the subject is suffering from gastrointestinal inflammatory disease.
63. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the subject is suffering from chronic rheumatoid arthritis.
64. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the subject is suffering from hepatitis.

65. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the subject is suffering from hepatic cirrhosis.

66. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein IL-4 is also administered to the subject.

67. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein TGF-beta is also administered to the subject.

68. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein at least one substance which inhibits the production or the function of IL-12 is also administered to the subject.

69. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein IL-4 is also administered to the subject.

70. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein TGF-beta is also administered to the subject.

71. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein at least one substance which inhibits the production or the function of IL-12 is also administered to the subject.

72. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the alkyl group has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

73. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the acyl group has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

74. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the peptidyl group has 1 to 10 amino acids.

75. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the acyl group is derived from a hydrocarbon carboxylic acid.

76. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the alkyl group has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

77. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the acyl group has 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

78. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the peptidyl group has 1 to 10 amino acids.

79. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the acyl group is derived from a hydrocarbon carboxylic acid.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 48-79 are supported by the specification at pages 4-60. See in particular pages 10 and 18. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by the amendments presented above.